

VNG assists with planning, logistics in COVID-19 fight

The Virginia National Guard has approximately 100 personnel working directly to support Virginia's COVID-19 response as of March 25, 2020. VNG Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force are helping with medical and logistics planning as well as helping prepare supplies for delivery. Additional personnel are providing mission command and logistics support for the VNG itself.

“The Virginia National Guard stands ready to assist the multi-agency state and federal team supporting the COVID-19 response to provide the capabilities they need,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “Through numerous floods, hurricanes and snowstorms, our personnel have worked side by side with the Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Transportation and local police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel. Members of the National Guard live and work in communities across the commonwealth, and they are your family, friends and neighbors. We are ready to respond and help keep our fellow Virginians safe during this difficult time.”

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/26/14854/>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group assist the Virginia Department of Emergency Management prepare supplies for delivery March 25, 2020.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VNG, DMA bills pass during 2020 Virginia General Assembly session

A number of bills impacting the Virginia National Guard passed the Virginia General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session, including bills aimed at increasing tuition assistance, increasing pay for Soldiers on state active duty, and increasing the maximum age for Virginia Defense Force member recruitment.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/25/14822/>

VNG aviation battalion conducts aerial gunnery in N.C.

Virginia National Guard flight crews and support personnel assigned to 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, traveled south to Atlantic, North Carolina, for aerial door gunnery Feb. 29 – March 8, 2020.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/18/14809/>

Virginia Guard Funeral Honors Program ‘trains the trainer’ during course

Nearly a dozen National Guard Soldiers from six states participated in a National Military Funeral Honors Instructor Certification Course Feb. 24 - March 6, 2020, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/12/14793/>

192nd conducts wing-wide annual training

The 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, conducted five days of annual training beginning March 9, 2020, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Airmen across the wing completed various career-based training.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/25/14825/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard
<http://nationalguard.com/va>

Va. Air National Guard
<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

Va. Defense Force
<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

Adjutant General of Virginia COVID-19 Update

Virginia National Guard Team:

We know the current situation with COVID-19 is putting huge stresses on our uniformed personnel, civilian workforce and families. There are so many questions everyone is asking, and we are doing our very best to answer them and provide regular updates as often as we are able.

As I have already stressed, Virginia National Guard leaders are taking the COVID-19 situation seriously, and the health and safety of our force is the top priority.

Most of our full-time uniformed and civilian work force is currently working remotely, in accordance with Centers For Disease Control and Virginia Department of Health guidance. The only exceptions are a few directorates who serve in critical positions.

The Virginia Army Guard will not conduct any face-to-face training in April in order to prevent spread of the virus and to ensure Soldiers who might have the virus do not come into contact with other healthy Soldiers. Commanders were given the authority to offer Soldiers online training commensurate with at least two days of drill pay.

There will be no "in-person" April drill for the Virginia Air National Guard. Commanders will maximize flexibility to plan various remote options and/or execute rescheduled drills based on "Airmen First, Mission Always."

All Virginia Defense Force training scheduled for April will be conducted virtually unless absolutely mission essential. Every member of the VDF should contact their first line leader for specific guidance for how training will be conducted.

There are questions about how COVID-19 will affect future training events. While this is a fluid situation and no one can predict when this will end, as of right now the 116th IBCT is still scheduled for JRTC this summer. As critical as training is, COVID-19 is what we are dealing with now. What is most important is protecting the force, and our families, by making common sense decisions and not allowing them to physically assemble for the next 30-45 days.

In addition to training for our federal mission and worldwide deployments, the VNG provides support to civil authorities here at home. While we are taking measures to reduce face-to-face training for federal missions, we may be asked to provide capabilities to other state agencies in our Commonwealth's response to COVID-19. We currently have planners working with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management looking at how the VNG might be able to support the statewide response, and we should have more details about possible missions soon.

Families should prepare for the possibility their Soldier, Airmen or VDF member may be directed to report to assist with emergency response efforts. Our force works and lives in every community across the Commonwealth and have a proven track record of success supporting civilian authorities. If our Commonwealth needs us, we will be there.

I hope you have heard it already, but I will say it again: Wash



your hands and maintain appropriate social distancing to slow the spread. Virginia's health is in our hands!

Thanks to everyone for their patience through this difficult time. If we work together and follow the public health recommendations, I am confident we will see our way through.

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams,
28th Adjutant General of Virginia

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/20/14820/>

MORE ON THE WEB

Virginia National Guard COVID-19 Resources

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/covid-19/>

VNG COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/25/14836/>

Readiness and Resiliency Resources

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/readyandresilient/>

VaANG officer brings experience from motorsports to flightline

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/03/25/14831/>

